

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01834 01 OF 03 031746Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 031728Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7689

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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PAGE 02 BONN 01834 01 OF 03 031746Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 01834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, UR  
SUBJECT: COMMUNIQUE AND REACTIONS ON SHELEPIN VISIT TO  
DGB IN DUESSELDORF

REF: BONN 2938, 1681

1. SUMMARY. THE DGB HAS RELEASED THE COMMUNIQUE COVERING SOVIET AUCCTU PRESIDENT SHELEPIN'S VISIT TO THE DGB IN DUESSELDORF. REACTING TO THIS VISIT, THE CDU/CSU PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE DGB. THE NEWEST THEMES EMERGING FROM THESE AUCCTU-DGB TALKS FOCUSED ON POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED USSR AND FRG TRADE TO RELIEVE FRG UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONTINUED PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION ON DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE WAS APPROVED BY THE GERMAN DGB AND THE SOVIET AUCCTU COVERING THEIR 5-HOUR TALKS IN DUESSELDORF:

"ON JANUARY 30, A DELEGATION OF THE ALL UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION (AUCCTU) HEADED BY PRESIDENT A.N. SHELEPIN ARRIVED IN DUESSELDORF AT THE INVITATION OF THE DGB. THE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT BY DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ O. VETTER AND MEMBERS OF THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS WELL AS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE FRG, W.M. FALIN.

FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL, A CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HEADED BY DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ O. VETTER AND THE SOVIET TRADE UNION DE-  
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PAGE 03 BONN 01834 01 OF 03 031746Z

LEGATION HEADED BY AUCCTU PRESIDENT A.N. SHELEPIN. DURING THE MEETING, THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BI-LATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS IN THE FRG AND THE SOVIET UNION, AS WELL AS OTHER QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED. THE MEETING DEVELOPED IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND HAD A CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER.

THE DELEGATION OF THE AUCCTU OF THE SOVIET UNION  
EXPRESSED ITS THANKS TO THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR  
THE CORDIAL RECEPTION AND LEFT DUESSELDORF ON THE SAME  
DAY."

3. THE SOVIET AUCCTU DELEGATION INCLUDED P.T. PIMENOV,  
AUCCTU VICE PRESIDENT AND RUSSIAN WORKER MEMBER OF THE  
ILO GOVERNING BODY. THE DGB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS  
PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS INCLUDED GERHARD SCHMIDT AND  
GERD MUHR, DGB VICE PRESIDENT AND GERMAN WORKER MEMBER OF  
THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. PIMENOV AND MUHR ARE INVOLVED  
IN PREPARING THE PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 1 IN GENEVA.

4. DGB SOURCES SAID THAT QUESTIONS DISCUSSED COVERED  
THE WHOLE RANGE OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING IN-  
CREASED FOREIGN TRADE TO RELIEVE FRG UNEMPLOYMENT, IN-  
CREASED TOURISM, THE PLANNED PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CON-  
FERENCE IN GENEVA, SOVIET DETENTE EFFORTS,  
FUTURE PLANS FOR CONTINUING THE SOVIET AUCCTU-GERMAN  
DGB PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGES OF TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS AND  
THE OLD ISSUE OF SOVIET NON-RECOGNITION OF THE WEST

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PAGE 01 BONN 01834 02 OF 03 031758Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

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R 031728Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7690

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
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PAGE 02 BONN 01834 02 OF 03 031758Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 01834

BERLIN DGB AS PART OF THE DGB.

5. AFTER THE TALKS, DGB PRESIDENT VETTER COMMENTED THAT THE MEETING WAS CONSTRUCTIVE BECAUSE ECONOMIC QUESTIONS HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED. DURING THE MEETING THE DGB EXPLAINED HOW THE SOVIET UNION COULD HELP THE FRG RELIEVE ITS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM WITH MORE TRADE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE UTILIZING UNUSED CAPACITY IN THE FRG CONSUMER GOODS INDUSTRIES. SHELEPIN INDICATED THAT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THIS PROBLEM WAS POSSIBLE. THE DGB AND THE AUCCTU ALSO AGREED TO USE THEIR VACATION AND TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE LOW COST MASS TOURISM. ON THE PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, VETTER INDICATED THAT PRACTICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

TRADE UNIONS ON HUMANIZATION OF WORKING LIFE WOULD RESULT. HE ALSO SAID THAT BOTH SIDES FULLY AGREED THAT THE WEST BERLIN DGB WAS AN "UNCONDITIONAL AND INCONTESTABLE PART OF THE DGB". SHELEPIN TOLD VETTER, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ETUC SUPPORT FOR SOVIET DETENTE EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SHELEPIN INDICATED FURTHER THAT DESPITE ITS DISPUTES WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DETENTE.

6. THE DGB TRIED TO KEEP THIS SHELEPIN VISIT SECRET UNTIL THE DAY SHELEPIN ARRIVED AND BORROWED A BULLET PROOF MERCEDES LIMOUSINE FROM STUTTGART FOR SHELEPIN'S SECURITY.

7. SHEDDING FURTHER LIGHT ON WHY THE GOVERNMENT CHANGED ITS POLICY ON PERMITTING SHELEPIN TO ENTER THE FRG, DGB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 01834 02 OF 03 031758Z

SOURCES SAID THAT THE VISIT NOW WAS IMPORTANT SINCE SHELEPIN MAY BE BREZHNEV'S SUCCESSOR AND THAT SHELEPIN HAD BEEN ASSURED SAFE PASSAGE BY FEDERAL JUSTICE MINISTER HANS JOACHIM VOGEL (SPD). CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST SHELEPIN IN THE MURDER OF UKRAINIAN EXILES STEPHAN BANDERA AND LEV REBET ARE PENDING IN THE FRG. THE DGB CLAIMED THAT THESE CHARGES AGAINST SHELEPIN HAD NOT BEEN PROVED AND EVEN IF THE CHARGES WERE VALID, THE STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS PREVENTED PROSECUTION NOW. IN SPITE OF THE SECRECY AND ELABORATE PRECAUTIONS, THREE UKRAINIAN DEMONSTRATORS THREW LEAFLETS AND A BANNER AGAINST THE CAR OF SHELEPIN BUT THEY WERE QUICKLY PUSHED ASIDE BY THE POLICE.

8. REACTIONS: THE OPPOSITION PARTIES CDU AND CSU AND THE CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE AND DIE WELT

SHARPLY CRITICIZED SHELEPIN'S VISIT TO THE DGB. PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADER REDDEMANN (CDU) CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT A SCANDAL SINCE SHELEPIN FOR YEARS HAD TAKEN PART IN THE GAGGING OF THE RUSSIAN INTELLIGENTSIA, IN SPYING ON AND PERSECUTING WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND IN SERIOUS CRIMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. REDDEMANN ADDED THAT SHELEPIN HAD ORDERED A KGB AGENT TO MURDER RUSSIAN EMI-GREES ON FRG TERRITORY. THE CDU AND CSU ASKED THE DGB HOW IT COULD MEET SECRETLY WITH A MURDERER WHO CONTROLS SOVIET WORKERS WITHOUT BECOMING UNRELIABLE IN THE EYES OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE WORLD. ALSO STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT, THE CDU AND CSU DEPLORED THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPORTUNISTIC DECISION TO APPROVE THE SOVIET REQUEST FOR A GUARANTEE OF SAFE

PASSAGE FOR SHELEPIN WHO USED TERROR, ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST FREEDOM IN THE FRG. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ADDED THAT SOVIET COMMUNISTS CONSIDER LENIN'S TASK OF UNDERMINING TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS AS THEIR URGENT DUTY, WHILE MANY WESTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS LIKE VETTER STILL DO NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND FULLY THIS POLICY EVEN AFTER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNISM. "THEREFORE VETTER CUT A BAD FIGURE ON THURSDAY AND HIS GUEST SHELEPIN FOLLOWED THE RULES HE HAD TO OBSERVE." DIE WELT CARRIED A SUMMARY OF THE MEANY TELE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BONN 01834 02 OF 03 031758Z

GRAM TO QUICK MAGAZINE. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG COMMENTED THAT SHELEPIN'S FUTURE POWER POSITION MAY CALL FOR A GOVERNMENT RECEPTION WITH HONORS BUT NOW HE HAD TO KNOCK SECRETLY TO ENTER THE FRG. VETTER REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE "COMMOTION" WHICH SHELEPIN'S VISIT HAD PROVOKED AMONG SOME PEOPLE, WHO, HE SAID, ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO GAVE A WARM HANDSHAKE TO SOVIET FUNCTIONARIES.

9. COMMENT. IN RETROSPECT THE STORY BEHIND SHELEPIN'S

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PAGE 01 BONN 01834 03 OF 03 031756Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

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R 031728Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7691  
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AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
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PAGE 02 BONN 01834 03 OF 03 031756Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 01834

VISIT IS NOW CLEARER. SINCE EARLY 1974 DGB SOURCES HAVE CLAIMED THAT SHELEPIN WOULD NOT COME TO THE FRG AND THAT THE DGB WOULD GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO AND CONSOLIDATING THE STRENGTH OF WEST EUROPEAN FREE TRADE UNION UNITY AND OF THE EC. HOWEVER BEFORE ERWIN KRISTOFFERSEN, DIRECTOR OF THE DGB INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE HARRISON HOUSE TALKS AND CONTACTS WITH THE AFL-CIO, THERE WAS AN UNPUBLICIZED EXCHANGE OF VISITS INVOLVING KRISTOFFERSEN, WHO TRAVELED TO THE SOVIET UNION TO LECTURE AT THE AUCCTU LEADERSHIP SCHOOL AND TO

TALK WITH SHELEPIN, AND BORIS AVERYANOV, AUCCTU DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WHO VISITED THE DGB. DURING THESE TALKS SHELEPIN'S VISIT WAS SECRETLY ARRANGED AND FINALLY CLEARED BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT BEFORE SHELEPIN CAME TO EAST BERLIN FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNION (WFTU) MEETING.

SHELEPIN'S LONG DELAYED VISIT TO THE FRG REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SOVIET SUCCESS IN PROMOTING ITS STRATEGY OF DEVELOPING DE FACTO PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION. THE ABOVE TALKS ON HOW THE SOVIET-FRG TRADE CAN RELIEVE FRG UNEMPLOYMENT ALSO FITS WELL WITH THE CURRENT WFTU CAMPAIGN ON THE "CRISIS OF WESTERN CAPITALISM" AND PROVIDES ANOTHER THEME FOR THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL PAN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION EXCHANGES IN ADDITION TO THE ALREADY AGREED THEME OF HUMANIZATION OF WORKING LIFE. IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO ARGUE THAT SHELEPIN'S VISIT BENEFITED THE DGB, VETTER CLAIMED THAT SHELEPIN NOW RECOGNIZES THE WEST BERLIN DGB AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DGB. BUT VETTER APPARENTLY OVERLOOKED THAT THE DGB HAD ALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 01834 03 OF 03 031756Z

READY MADE THE SAME CLAIM THREE YEARS AGO WHEN RECOGNITION OF THE STATUS OF THE BERLIN DGB WAS MADE A PRECONDITION FOR EXCHANGING DELEGATIONS WITH THE AUCCTU. END COMMENT.  
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